

60,464,021  
OT-4718REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the remarks and analysis contained in the recent Office Action. Claims 1-12 have been cancelled. New claims 13-28 are currently pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

The originally presented claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Spiess (5,655,626). Applicant respectfully submits that there is no anticipation. The Spiess reference discloses a steel hose-like covering 4 that acts as a rail running surface. There is no discussion or suggestion within the Spiess reference for having different surface characteristics on different portions of a track. At best, the embodiment of Figure 2C in Spiess has different hardnesses of the material underneath the hose like, steel covering 4. A different hardness under the steel covering is not the same as having a different surface characteristic as claimed.

The originally presented claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being unpatentable over Sherwood (4,355,486). Applicant respectfully submits that there is no anticipation. Sherwood is completely silent regarding having different surface characteristics on different portions of a track as claimed.

Additionally, neither of the references relied upon by the Examiner proposes or discloses the use of magnetic portions on a roller as claimed in some of Applicant's claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are patentable over the cited references. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative is available to

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discuss any issues regarding this application. Applicant's representative can be contacted at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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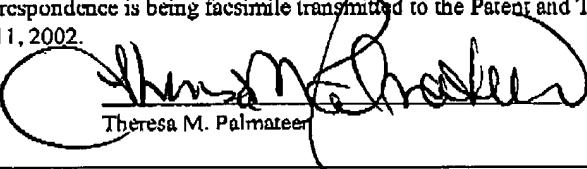
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**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 872-9326) on March 11, 2002.

  
Theresa M. Palmaeer

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